

Adult Bible Discovery- November 15, 2020:

For Starters:

What are the things of this world that people treat as gods?

What is your view of God? Is he an extravagant giver of gifts or is he a harsh dispenser of judgement?

Read Matthew 25:14-30

- *What parts of the text jump out at you?*
- *What questions do you have after reading this text?*

If cows had gods, those gods would look just like cows. So said the philosopher, Xenophanes. He summed up idolatry: thinking God is just like we are. That was the servant's problem in the Parable of the Talents. He thought his master was a hard, harsh, ruthless man, so he behaved accordingly. He projected his own image onto his master. Take some time to watch the video linked below where Chad Bird explains how this parable has echoes of Genesis 2-3, fits with the definition of OT idolatry, and beckons the faithful to laugh with joy as we enter the party of heaven.

Watch the video: <https://youtu.be/pr-C-XaUNqE>

- *Just like the master in the parable God is an extravagant giver! Some see God as only a harsh judge. How does a person's view of God influence how they think about God?*
- *What do you think about Luther's words below from the Large Catechism?*

A "god" is the term for that to which we are to look for all good and in which we are to find refuge in all need. Therefore, to have a god is nothing else than to trust and believe in that one with your whole heart. As I have often said, it is the trust and faith of the heart alone that makes both God and idol. If your faith and trust are right, then your God is the true one. Conversely, where your trust is false and wrong, there you do not have the true God. For these two belong together, faith and God. Anything on which your heart relies and depends, I say is really your God. (LC:1, 2-3)

- *How does verse 25 echo the story of the fall in Genesis 2 and 3?*
- *How is idolatry at the core of sinful humanity?*
- *What evidence have you read or experienced that shows God is not stingy?*
- *What evidence have you read or experienced that shows that God's judgement is serious?*
- *What evidence have you read or experienced that shows that what waits for us after this life is joy and not sadness?*
- *How do these realities help inform our daily life today?*